VIII. reduction of gas flaring

IX. encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems

X environmental quality management for all sectors

(b) Every country adopts policies and measures as per its respective capabilities to reduce GHG emissions. As in the developed countries, India is actively promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, including introduction of energy efficient lighting. Besides we are encouraging renewable energy and promoting mass rapid transport systems.

Setting up of FACs

1264. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apex Court has been monitoring, through a Central Empowered Committee constituted for the purpose, cases relating to encroachment of jungles and mismanagement by the State forest departments;

(b) whether Government have pleaded for the review of constituting the Central Empowered Committee by the Apex Court and to revert back the powers to the States including setting up of Forest Advisory Committees to look into such cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No Sir. However, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has been constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 09.05.2002 for the purpose of monitoring of implementation of Hon'ble Court's orders and to place the non-compliance cases before it, including in respect of encroachment removals, implementation of working plans, compensatory afforestation, plantation and other conservation issues.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

Norms for proper rehabilitation and settlement

1265. SHRIMATI HEMA MAL1NI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to list out villages to be shifted out of tiger parks;

(b) if so, the norms for prioritizing villages for shifting out, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government have framed, any norms for proper rehabilitation and settlement for the affected villagers so that they can have better livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As recommended by the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife, action has been initiated for

relocation of villages from the core areas of tiger reserves to provide inviolate habitats for tiger and other wild animals.

(b) and (c) Action has also been taken for prioritizing villages for relocation from core areas of tiger reserves, based on the Phase-1 data of the refined, All India tiger estimation process and studies on tiger ethology. Initiatives have been taken for improving the relocation/rehabilitation package for giving a fair deal to people being relocated.

Regulation of pollution

1266. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one species after another is being wiped out, forest cover is dwindling and pollution is becoming a major health hazard;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any steps to conserve species on war footing, rebuild rural forestry and empower pollution control Boards to proactively regulate pollution in order to provide clean water and air to all citizens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) Pollution is becoming health hazard but Forest cover is not dwindling in India. There have been reports that over the past fifty years, there has been a loss in the biodiversity throughout the World.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken following measure to conserve flora and fauna of the country and to regulate the pollution:-

- Survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources are carried out by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring purposes.

- A Protected Area Network of 96 National Parks, and 509 Wildlife Sanctuaries and three Conservation Reserves, covering more than 4.74% of the geographical area of the country has been created for *in-situ* conservation of habitats and ecosystems.

- Fourteen biodiversity rich areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems.

- Species oriented programmes, namely, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Project Rhino focussing on single species as well as for conserving their habitats and a variety of other species in those habitats are being implemented.

- To complement *in-situ* conservation efforts, *ex-situ* conservation has been undertaken through botanic gardens, zoos, gene banks etc.